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Delta Protection Commission

To all concerned:

For the past 4 years we have spent hours trying to convince the Assembly and Senate in Sacramento that we have a wide spread, detrimental problem in the Delta - Egeria Densa. After almost a year of going to various committee meetings in Sacramento we were elated to see legislation passed with funding, AB 2193 by Assemblyman Rainey. It provides \$1,000,000 for control, \$100,000 for research and \$5,000 for Fish & Game - that was in Sept. 96. Since then we have spent another wide spread growing season with the problem and the problem is growing larger. This weed is still clogging our waterways causing problems for boaters, property owners and the maritime industry.

It is frustrating to see authority and funding given to Dept of Boating & Waterways and then have it squandered by State and Federal agencies. We were under the impression the problem would be addressed and the best solution applied. **WELL-THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE TRUE.** We knew and understood an EIR needed to be done but we assumed all solutions would be considered and studied. **WELL - THIS IS NOT TRUE.** The EIR ONLY considers harvesting.

In theory this is an option. In reality it is extremely costly and ineffective.

Envision this: When you mow your lawn and allow the clippings to sit, they re-root and the lawn thickens. Same with Egeria Densa. When it's mowed, pieces get away, re-root and add "fuel to the fire". This may satisfy the bureaucrats in their neon offices who are suppose to protect our environment and interests - but in reality - we are still in crisis.


Lars Anderson, PHD-UC Davis has done research for 4-5 years and has proven effective a control herbicide, Komeen. Why isn't this research being considered in the EIR? Lars has written 4 annual studies with a fifth due out soon. How much money has been spent studying an ineffective method (Harvesting)?

In order to get the ball rolling we need: Reclamation Districts, CA Dept of Food and Agriculture, CA Dept of Fish & Game, CA EPA-DPR, Contra Costa Ag Dept and Commissioner, CA Dept of Water Resources, San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority, CA Dept Pesticide Regulation, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Contra Costa Water District, San Joaquin Co. Ag Dept., U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board., State Water Board, to all realize the detriment of this weed and work on a solution in a cost effective, time saving manner. How can all of these agencies get together and solve the problem we live with every day? Senator Rainey stressed that this has become an emergency - a crisis - but still we're stopped in our tracks! The problem needs to be addressed with a realistic, rational and effective solution.

We assume that the draft EIR on harvesting due out in March 98 will be considered and a final EIR will not be done until approx. July 98, well into the next high growth season, and will not be a realized failure for a number of years.

If this commission can encourage all of these agencies to consider all viable solutions it would be a great service to our friends, neighbors and business associates. While we're waiting, we're choking in weeds. **HELP US!**

Respectfully,


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Darrell Edwards
Lisa Jones